

VERBESINA ARAMBERRANA (ASTERACEAE, HELIANTHEAE) A NEW  
GYPSEOUS SPECIES FROM NUEVO LEON, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Verbesina aramberrana* B.L. Turner, is described from gypseous soils of southernmost Nuevo León, México. It is closely related to the recently described *V. hintoniorum* B.L. Turner and *V. zaragozana* B.L. Turner, both gypseous species from southern Nuevo León. All of these possess very localized distributions and each has very distinctive vestiture. So far as known they do not grow together, nor do they intergrade.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Heliantheae, *Verbesina*, México

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

*Verbesina aramberrana* B.L. Turner, *sp. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Aramberri, San Francisco, gypsum hillside, 1750 m, 26 Aug 1992, *Hinton et al.* 22959 (TEX!).

*Verbesinae hintoniorum* B.L. Turner similis sed foliis sparsim hispidis trichomatibus brevibus basi lata exorientibus (vs. conspicuae aequaliterque pubescentibus trichomatibus relative longis molli-appressisque cellulis basalibus inconspicuisque exorientibus) et bracteis involucri obtusis vel obtusatis (vs. apiculatis vel mucronatis) differt.

Suffruticose perennial herbs or shrublets 50-60 cm high. Stems strigose with upturned white hairs. Midstem leaves alternate, linear to linear-lanceolate, mostly 3-7 cm long, 0.2-1.0 cm wide, sessile or nearly so, rough hispid-pilose,

especially along the margins, the hairs sclerose, white, with broad multicellular bases. Heads radiate, hemispheric, 1-20 in terminal stiffly erect cymes, the ultimate peduncles mostly 3-11 cm long, rarely single on peduncles up to 20 cm long. Involucres broadly campanulate to hemispheric, 4-6 mm high, 10-12 mm wide (pressed), the bracts ca. 3-seriate, subequal. Receptacle convex, paleate, the pales obtuse, blunt. Ray florets, ca. 13, pistillate or neuter, sometimes on the same plant as on the holotype, the ligules 6-8 mm long, 2-5 mm wide, yellow. Disk florets numerous, the corollas yellow, ca. 5 mm long, glabrous above or nearly so, the tube sparsely pilose, ca. 1 mm long, the lobes 5, ca. 0.5 mm long, glabrous. Anthers black, the appendages yellow. Achenes (immature) ca. 3.5 mm long, glabrous, the awns ca. 1.5 mm long.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Aramberri, San Francisco, gypsum hillside, 13 May 1992, *Hinton et al.* 21963, 21975 (TEX).

*Verbesina aramberrana* is clearly very closely related to *V. hintoniorum* B.L. Turner and *V. zaragozana* B.L. Turner, all of these occurring on gypsum substrates in southern Nuevo León, México (Turner 1985, 1992). Nevertheless, while possessing similar habits, the foliage of each is characterized by differences in vestiture that are quite remarkable: *Verbesina zaragozana* with densely ashy-white tomentose hairs; *V. hintoniorum* with moderately appressed-pilose soft hairs; *V. aramberrana* with sparse coarsely-hispid hairs. In addition, each is confined to rather localized habitats, none occurring together so far as known, nor do I detect intermediates suggestive that these three taxa would better be described as varieties of a single species.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Guy Nesom for the Latin diagnosis, and to him and Luis Hernández for reviewing the manuscript.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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- . 1992. *Verbesina zaragozana* (Asteraceae, Heliantheae), a new species from Nuevo León, México. *Phytologia* 73:302-303.